



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**
Paula J. Hammond, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

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March 25, 2008

Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: STB Ex Parte No. 677, Common Carrier Obligations of Railroads

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

Pursuant to the Surface Transportation Board Notice served on February 22, 2008 in the above referenced proceeding, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is providing notice of its intent to participate in the public hearing scheduled for April 24, 2008.

Speaking on behalf of WSDOT will be Mr. Scott L. Witt, Director, State Rail and Marine Office. Mr. Witt will discuss: (a) service limitations resulting from a capacity constrained environment; (b) carrier-imposed requirements for infrastructure investments by shippers; (c) economically motivated service reductions and metering of the demand for service; (d) when it becomes necessary to obtain abandonment authorization; and (e) to whom does the common carrier obligation apply. WSDOT respectfully requests thirty (30) minutes to address these topics which are important to Washington State.

Sincerely,

Stephen T. Reinmuth
Chief of Staff

STR:ku

Cc: Scott L. Witt